

The Brethren Evangelist.

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Address all communications for this office to Ashland, Ohio, and for the sake of convenience, make all drafts, express orders, etc., payable to S. J. Harrison.

OUR DISGRACE.

While Brother Menaugh's letter may seem harsh to some, none can read it without seeing a good motive behind it. We can say a loud "amen" to the counsel given, that if we live right and do our duty faithfully, we shall by and by see an increase which God gives. Real genuine heart-felt body-practiced religion is godliness that blesses those who have it, and charms those who come under their influence.

There is an element in almost every congregation of every denomination that exalts appearances out of all proportion to their importance; and then there is the other class equally prominent that care not how uncouth, boorish and offensive the presentation of themselves or their church may be, they have no apparent inclination to consider others' sense of propriety and right.

The display-loving element would canvass sea and land to build a higher steeple, to purchase a louder bell, to furnish the church finer, etc., than the neighboring churches for the sole and only purpose of being ahead of them. But you could not get them to cross the street to invite a sinner to come to Christ, or to save a worn out soldier of the Cross from a pauper's grave. Let it be understood we have no objection to steeples that pierce the sky, nor bells that can be heard twenty miles away, nor church furnishing that is limited only by man's skill and means, if the object is to glorify God. But this can not possibly be done so long as our mission and educational work, and our Publishing House must go *begging* for existence.

Think of a young man clothed in fine broadcloth with a gold headed walking stick while his poor old mother had to beg for cast off clothing, and the crumbs that fall from others' tables because the ungrateful son would not pay the mother for goods sold to him on credit. That is about the way the dealings of the Brethren church with Bro. Holsinger looks to an outsider.

There are many local congregations having property valued at \$2,000 to \$4,000

and out of debt, while the Publishing House must go out like a poor old ragged mother and beg for a mere subsistence. Indeed we constantly feel like hiding our face in shame on account of this.

Think of a church holding local property aggregating over \$150,000 and then withholding a debt due its old veteran editor and standard bearer of the nominal sum of less than \$1,000! We said two weeks ago this sum should be raised in thirty days—Indeed it *should be raised in one week.*

THE NATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

Although the following inquiry is a private and personal one we have no doubt it presents a question that has occurred to many more minds; and we must confess being somewhat derelict in duty in appearances if not in fact. As we shall not reveal the author's identity we hope he will have no objections to our publication of his letter for the purpose of bringing the subject before others equally interested with himself.

THE LETTER.

—, —, Feb. 12th, 1894.

DEAR BRO. HARRISON:—Your letter received. I am still in the dark. Perhaps I have been misunderstanding with reference to the Ministerial Institute all along.

1. I was under the impression that there were two classes of members, those who took the course of study and those who did not.

2. That the ticket issued to all members was to be renewed at the beginning of each year.

3. That it was the aim of the association to make this ticket "the best evidence of a ministers good standing that can be had." (I am quoting from your personal card to me bearing date Feb. 22, 1893.)

4. I considered that belonging to the class who did not take the course of study, I was still entitled to a renewal of my certificate. Otherwise if there is anything in the ticket of the Institute to designate standing, I should just be so far irregular. It may be objected that the officers of the Institute have had no means of ascertaining the ability of those who did not pursue the course of study. My idea was that information on this line was obtainable from the answers to the questions on the form of application, e. g., how long preaching? What educational advantages? etc. etc. And that a graduate in Theology and Classics or literature, having a good report as a preacher and pastor in the Brethren church, should be entitled to the certificate of the Institute without the course of study. But however it may be I shall be satisfied. These things occurred to me and I have mentioned them with no intention to either criticize or find fault.

Fraternally.

OUR ANSWER.

1. Your impression is correct so far as the original plan and purpose is concerned;

but at the Institute held at Warsaw last Summer this was changed. Although we doubted the wisdom of the change, it was argued by those favoring it that every live minister ought to read enough of the course to pass an examination; that the brightest minds should not object to this as it was the only way by which the credit of the Association could be maintained.

2. This was also changed to be a Certificate showing result of examination.

3. It is still the aim of the Association to make membership in it the best pocket evidence obtainable of a ministers moral and literary qualifications.

4. Under the original plan you were entitled to a renewal upon application accompanied by your state credentials, but not according to the present constitution.

REMARKS.

We should now like to hear from every member of the Association—every one whose name was enrolled—on the question of a week's institute prior to Conference this coming August:

1. Can you and will you attend?
2. If not what is your wish in regard to the Association?

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The weather here is much milder than at Lanark, Ill., or Waterloo, Iowa. About four inches of snow fell last week, and since sleighing has been good.

In the commercial failures of this year the aggregate liabilities are over three hundred and thirty-one million dollars. This is over a half more than the aggregate in the six preceding years.

Bro. E. E. Roberts has our thanks for a Heavenly scented letter received from him last week. He expects soon to be situated so as to give more of his time and talent to the upbuilding of Zion on earth.

On last Thursday night we partly organized a Bible Student's Prayer-meeting at the college which is to meet weekly Thursday nights in a class room of the college. The *Blakeslee* Inductive Lessons will be used.

"SALOONS and poverty are familiar terms. Where the former are numerous the latter is sure to be widespread. They are so closely related to each other that no one seriously attempts to question the relationship."

We glean from the Waterloo, (Iowa) *Courier* that Sister Dan Lint who has been living in the south for several years is looking up a home in Waterloo. She is a daughter of Brother J. P. Lichty, a deacon and charter member of the Enon Brethren church, Iowa.